GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON GROUND WATER RESERVES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CGWB rings alarm bells on water" appearing in the Times of India dated August 28, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any action plan for drought proofing for Delhi, parts of which are already facing water scarcity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information made available by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), waterlevel showed decline between 0.1 m to 4.5 m in some parts of Delhi during 2001-2002. During May to August, 2002, ground water level has further declined by 0.1 m to 3 m in parts of Delhi. During this period, water level would, otherwise, have shown rise due to rainfall recharge in case of normal monsoon.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources and drought proofing. However, the CGWB has provided following assistance to Government of NCT of Delhi for drought mitigation:-

(i) 42 deposit wells were constructed by CGWB in Yamuna Flood Plain Area during 2002-03.

(ii) 85 exploratory tubewells have been constructed by the Board out of which, 50 wells have been handed over to Government of NCT of Delhi for utilisation.

(iii) Data pertaining to ground water situation has been provided to Government of NCT of Delhi for their use.

(iv) A team has been constituted by CGWB to assist Government of NCT of Delhi on ground water related aspects for combating drought situation.